



Standard Update

Better Data Through Standards



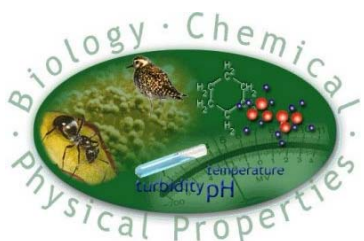
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*The **Standard Update**, EPA's newsletter about data standards, contains information you can read and reuse whatever your interest in information management may be. For more information on any newsletter topic, see the Environmental Data Registry (EDR) Website at <http://www.epa.gov/edr/>. The EDR Website is your source for **Standard Update** back issues and a vehicle for reader comments.*

*This issue of the **Standard Update** features the three components of the EDR that provide identification information about the substances, chemicals, and biological organisms of interest to the EPA.*

What is the Substance Registry System?

<http://www.epa.gov/srs/>



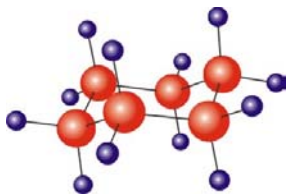
The **Substance Registry System** (SRS) is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) central system for substance identification information. The SRS provides a common basis for identifying chemicals, organisms, physical characteristics, and other items listed in EPA regulations, data systems, and other sources such as publications of Agency interest. The SRS also serves as an access portal to the **Chemical Registry System** (CRS) and the **Biology Registry System** (BioRS).

The SRS allows users to search across systems. Using an identification number or a name, a user can access data in the CRS, BioRS, or the SRS. Using the SRS Search function, you can find information for substances by common identifiers such as Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CASRN) and name (systematic, scientific, or recognized synonym). Each substance listed in SRS is linked to regulations in which it is referenced and program systems where it has been reported. You can also search by specific regulation or program system.

The SRS is available through EPA's Web site and is intended to assist anyone interested in substance information, including the public, environmental decision makers, regulated entities, state and local environmental agencies, regulation writers, and computer system developers and managers. The SRS can also help users of environmental information find where a substance is regulated.

What is the Chemical Registry System?

<http://www.epa.gov/crs/>



The **Chemical Registry System** (CRS) provides information on chemical substances and how they are represented in EPA regulations and data systems. Developed in response to recommendations of the Chemical Data Standard Working Group, the CRS supports and conforms to EPA's Chemical Identification Data Standard, which provides a uniform way of referring to chemical substances and promotes sharing chemical information across EPA data systems.

Using the CRS Search function, you can query for chemicals by common identifiers such as CASRN, chemical name, molecular formula, chemical type, definition, or alternate identifier. You can also search information sources, such as regulations or EPA data systems containing information about a chemical.

What is the Biology Registry System?

<http://www.epa.gov/biors/>



The **Biology Registry System** (BioRS) provides identification information for organisms and how they are represented in EPA regulations and information systems. Developed in response to the Biological Taxonomy Data Standard Working Group's recommendations, the BioRS supports and conforms to EPA's Biological Taxonomy Data Standard, which provides a uniform way to refer to organisms and a basis for sharing information across EPA data systems. The standard is based on and complements the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), a database of information on species names and their hierarchical classification. ITIS assigns a unique Taxonomic Serial Number (TSN) for each scientific name.

The BioRS contains biology identification information in regulations and Agency programs. Using the BioRS Search function, you can look for biological entities by common identifiers such as Biology Identification Number (BIN), TSN, CASRN, or name (scientific or common). You can also search by specific regulation or program system.

For additional information on Agency data standards activities, contact Tim Crawford, Acting Chief, Data Standards Branch, Collection Strategies Division, Office of Information Collection, 202-260-1715 or Crawford.Tim@epa.gov
